

DRAFT

Right to Know Advisory Committee
Education and Training Subcommittee
November 17, 2008
(Draft) Meeting Summary

Convened 11:37 a.m., Room 438, State House, Augusta

Present:

Judy Meyer, chair
Richard Flewelling
Maureen O'Brien
Harry Pringle

| Absent:

Karla Black
Sheriff Mark Dion
Mal Leary
Linda Pistner

Staff:

Peggy Reinsch
Colleen McCarthy Reid

Judy Meyer convened the Education and Training Subcommittee.

Staff updated the subcommittee on the legislator training planning that has already occurred. The Legislative Council has appointed a subcommittee to provide the Pre-Legislative Conference, scheduled to begin December 1st. The first day is for new legislators, and all legislators are to attend on December 2nd; the 124th Legislature will be sworn in on Wednesday, December 3rd. The Attorney General has been asked to provide the Freedom of Access laws training. The Attorney General has been providing ethics training for the past several years, and the FOA training can follow the legislative ethics discussion.

Binders have been prepared for all legislators covering all the training. There is a separate section for Freedom of Access laws and requirements. New legislators that attended the orientation last week received a copy. All other legislators will receive their copies on December 1st or 2nd. The packet of information included in the binder was distributed to the subcommittee.

Training for Committee Chairs and Republican leads will take place in January, although the date has not yet been confirmed. This training will be more focused on open meetings, and the public records exception review process. Nonpartisan staff may be asked by the Legislative Council to introduce the information.

The subcommittee was pleased with the packet of information prepared for the legislators. It is basically the same as provided two years ago, with necessary updates. It does not include letters from members of the Advisory Committee. The subcommittee agreed that the letters were no longer needed because the Advisory Committee is now fairly well-established and known, and legislators are much more familiar with the importance of Freedom of Access laws.

There was discussion about mandatory training. November 1st was the deadline for those elected officials in office as of July 1st to complete their training. Ms. Meyer expressed her thought that the training requirement was well-received and compliance seemed to be accomplished with positive attitudes.

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The subcommittee agreed that the next task is to prepare for the Chairs and Leads training. Members will be in touch as the timing and other aspects are established.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next meeting

No additional meetings are scheduled at this time.

Prepared by Peggy Reinsch and Colleen McCarthy Reid

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